

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to any paper(s) indicated above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 10-26 were pending, under consideration and subjected to examination in the Office Action. Appropriate claims have been amended, canceled and/or added (without prejudice or disclaimer) in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. Such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply cancellation of any disputed claim(s) (without prejudice or disclaimer) to obtain a patent (without prejudice or disclaimer) on any allowable claim(s) as quickly as possible. Any disputed claim(s) may be pursued within a continuing application. At entry of this paper, Claims 10-22 will be pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC '103

The 35 USC '103 rejection of claims 10-22 as being anticipated by Moriya et al. (U.S. Patent 5,867,475) in view of Whaley (U.S. Patent 6,052,817) is respectfully traversed, but the present amendment (see discussions below) of such claims (without prejudice or disclaimer) to obtain a patent (without prejudice or disclaimer) on claims having the allowable features/limitations as quickly as possible, has rendered such rejection(s) obsolete, and thus gratuitous traversal arguments concerning the rejection(s) are omitted for brevity. Further discussions/arguments concerning such rejection(s) are left for the future if/when appropriate. Based upon the following, reconsideration and withdrawal of such rejection(s) are respectfully requested.

The above statements, or any present cancellation of claims (without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that the rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter, but is merely use of a procedural approach to obtain a patent (without prejudice or disclaimer) on ones of the allowable claims as quickly as possible.

REWRITTEN ALLOWABLE CLAIM(S)

Claims 23-26 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten, as indicated within the section numbered "13" on page 5 of the Office Action. Features/limitations of ones of the allowable dependent claims have been incorporated into the independent claim(s), thereby rendering the rewritten independent claim(s) and any claims dependent therefrom allowable, i.e., all of presently-pending claims 10-22 should be allowable as presently rewritten. Reconsideration and renewal of the allowance are respectfully requested. In view of the incorporation of the features/limitations of claims 23-26 into the independent claims, such allowable dependent claims have been canceled (without prejudice or disclaimer) to avoid redundant claims. Applicant and the undersigned respectfully thank the Examiner for such indication of allowable subject matter.

ALL CLAIMS IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the fact that all independent claims have been rewritten to include the features/limitations indicated as being allowable, and all other claims depend therefrom, it is respectfully submitted that all presently pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance with respect to the present application is respectfully requested.

EXTENSIVE PROSECUTION AGAIN NOTED

Applicant and the undersigned respectfully note the extensive prosecution which has been conducted to date with the present application, and thus Applicant and the undersigned would gratefully appreciate any considerations or guidance from the Examiner to help move the present application quickly to allowance.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is herein invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys at the local Washington, D.C. area telephone number of 703/312-6600 for discussing any Examiner's Amendments or other suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any objection/rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, i.e., Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR '1.136.

Authorization is herein given to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 520.39904X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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